

## Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /135 W

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R 101700Z MAR 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1251

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: SECTORS GROUP STUDIES: GATT SECRETARIAT PROBLEMS WITH  
PRODUCTION DATA

REF: MTN GENEVA 1013

1. GATT SECRETARIAT (TILL) CALLED ON THE U.S.S. MTN DEL  
ON MARCH 8 TO DESCRIBE DIFFICULTIES THE SECRETARIAT HAD  
ENCOUNTERED IN PRESENTING PRODUCTION DATA IN THE STUDIES  
IT IS PREPARING FOR THE SECTORS GROUP, PARTICULARLY AS  
THEY RELATE TO ENGINEERING AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES. TILL  
NOTED THAT, AS REFLECTED IN SECTORS GROUP CHAIRMAN'S  
SUMMING-UP (MTN/SEC/3 OF 11 NOV. 1975), GROUP "AGREED TO  
REQUEST THE SECRETARIAT TO INITIATE THE COMPILATION OF  
READILY AVAILABLE DATA ON TRADE FLOWS, TARIFFS, NONTARIFF  
MEASURES AND PRODUCTION FOR SECTORS WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY  
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BEEN TAKEN UP." AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, SECRETARIAT

HAS NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM WITH TRADE DATA, USING GATT  
TARIFF STUDY TAPES AND UN TAPES.

2. HOWEVER, SECRETARIAT HAS SEVERAL PROBLEMS WITH  
PRODUCTION DATA. THE FIRST PROBLEM CONCERNS THE  
SECRETARIAT'S INABILITY TO MATCH TRADE DATA WITH  
PRODUCTION DATA OBTAINED FROM OTHER SOURCES. NATIONAL  
GOVERNMENTS DO NOT COLLECT PRODUCTION STATISTICS IN  
COMPARABLE MANNER; UNITS OF MEASUREMENT DIFFER WIDELY.  
NEVERTHELESS, SECRETARIAT WILL DO ITS BEST TO PRESENT  
DATA IN USABLE FORM.

3. A MORE CONTENTIOUS PROBLEM, TILL CONTINUED, IS EC  
REFUSAL TO ALLOW SECRETARIAT TO PRESENT DATA, INCLUDING  
PRODUCTION DATA, BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER COUNTRY OF THE NINE  
EC COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN ENGINEERING INDUSTRY  
PRODUCTION DATA IS USUALLY AVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL EC  
MEMBER STATES BUT NOT FOR THE EC AS A WHOLE, SOMETIMES  
BECAUSE DATA IS WITHHELD FROM PUBLICATION BY COUNTRIES  
CONCERNED BECAUSE OF SMALL NUMBER OF FIRMS, AND IN OTHER  
CASES, BECAUSE OF INABILITY OF MEMBER COUNTRIES TO  
COLLECT AND PUBLISH PRODUCTION DATA. AN EFFORT TO AGGREGATE  
FOR EC AS A WHOLE DATA AVAILABLE FROM JUST SOME EC COUNTRIES  
WOULD BE VERY MISLEADING.

4. TILL ASKED HOW THE U.S. WOULD WANT SECRETARIAT TO  
PROCEED, IN VIEW OF THESE PROBLEMS. WE SUGGESTED THAT  
SECRETARIAT SIMPLY REPRODUCE IN ITS SECTORS STUDIES  
PRODUCTION TABLES PUBLISHED BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS WHICH BREAK OUT INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBER  
COUNTRIES. FOR CHEMICALS, THIS WOULD BE UN ECONOMIC  
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE  
PUBLICATIONS. FOR ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES, WHICH  
INCLUDE HEAVY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRONICS,  
SECRETARIAT WILL INCLUDE ONE COPY FOR EACH DELEGATION  
OF OECD ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES STUDY. IN BOTH CASES  
DATA WILL APPEAR BY INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBER STATE WITH  
MANY BLANK SPOTS, USUALLY ITALY. WE OBSERVED THAT SINCE  
(A) SECRETARIAT WOULD BE SIMPLY COMPLYING WITH SECTORS  
GROUP INSTRUCTION (AT EC INSISTANCE) TO USE  
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"READILY AVAILABLE DATA," WHICH IN THESE TWO AREAS IS  
LIMITED PRIMARILY TO THESE PUBLICATIONS; (B) AN EFFORT  
BY SECRETARIAT TO AGGREGATE EC MEMBER STATE DATA INTO  
ONE EC FIGURE WOULD BE EXTREMELY MISLEADING; AND (C) EC  
COMMISSION DOES NOT PUBLISH EC-WIDE PRODUCTION DATA, EC  
SHOULD HAVE NO GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT. ALTERNATIVE  
WOULD BE FAILURE TO INCLUDE PRODUCTION DATA IN  
SECRETARIAT SECTOR STUDIES.

5. WE HAVE PURPOSELY AVOIDED ANY CONTACT WITH EC COMMISSION DEL ON THIS QUESTION, FORCING SECRETARIAT TO SERVE AS MIDDLEMAN.

6. REFTEL REPORTED THAT SECRETARIAT HAD ALMOST COMPLETED ITS PROCESSING OF TARIFF AND TRADE DATA FOR ELECTRONICS, HEAVY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, AND CHEMICALS AND WOULD DO SAME SUBSEQUENTLY FOR TWO OR THREE AS YET UNDECIDED OTHER SECTORS. SECRETARIAT HAS STILL NOT DECIDED WHAT THOSE OTHER SECTORS SHOULD BE, BUT WE NOTE THAT USE OF OECD ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES DATA, WHICH INCLUDES BOTH ELECTRICAL AND NONELECTRICAL MACHINERY, IS A VERY BROAD SECTOR. WALKER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPORTS, IMPORTS, POLICIES, TARIFF SCHEDULES, PRODUCTION DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Film Number:** D760091-0603  
**From:** MTN GENEVA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760376/aaaacosb.tel  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION STR  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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